

## CLAIMS

1. ~~An image reading device comprising:~~

a housing;

a reading processor that optically reads an image  
5 recorded on a recording material sheet to generate image data;

an image data transmitting processor that can transmit  
said image data externally to a peripheral device;

an image data recording processor that can record said  
image data in a recording medium mounted in said housing;

10 a recording operation determination processor that  
determines, based on a state of said recording medium, whether  
a recording operation of said image data recording processor is  
possible; and

a control processor that, when said recording operation  
15 determination processor determines that said recording operation  
is impossible, prohibits said recording operation and allows said  
image data transmitting processor to transmit said image data to  
said peripheral device.

2. A device according to claim 1, further comprising a  
20 display device that indicates said recording operation is  
prohibited when said recording operation determination processor  
determines that said recording operation is impossible.

3. A device according to claim 1, wherein said recording  
operation determination processor determines whether said  
25 recording operation is possible based on whether said recording

medium is mounted in said housing.

4. A device according to claim 1, wherein said recording operation determination processor determines whether said recording operation is possible based on a remaining recordable volume of said recording medium.

5. A device according to claim 1, wherein said recording operation determination processor determines whether said recording operation is possible based on a formatting state of said recording medium.

6. A device according to claim 1, wherein said recording operation determination processor determines whether said recording operation is possible based on a type of said recording medium.

7. A device according to claim 1, wherein said recording medium comprises a memory card.

8. A device according to claim 7, wherein said memory card comprises a PC card.

9. A device according to claim 1, wherein said recording medium comprises a magneto-optical disc.

10. A device according to claim 1, wherein said recording medium comprises a magnetic disk.

11. A device according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral device comprises a computer.

12. An image reading device comprising:  
means for optically reading an image recorded on a

recording material sheet to generate image data;

means for transmitting said image data to an computer  
provided externally to said image reading device;

means for recording said image data in a recording medium  
5 . mounted in said image reading device;

means for determining, based on a state of said recording  
medium, whether a recording operation of said image data  
recording processor is possible; and

means for controlling said transmitting means and said  
10 recording means, said control means prohibiting said recording  
operation and allowing said image data transmitting means to  
transmit said image data to said computer when said determining  
means determines that said recording operation is impossible.

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